

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05673 091611Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4423
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 5673

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EG LY PFOR
SUBJECT: US-LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF STATE 133634; CAIRO 5640

1. IN MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, I EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S AND HIS CANDID VIEWS ON THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING A LIBYAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. I EMPHASIZED THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMING AND HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER WE HAD HEARD EGYPTIAN VIEWS. IT WAS IN SPIRIT OF CLOSE US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS THAT WE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH GOE BEFORE DOING ANYTHING. I ASSURED FAHMY THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE EGYPTIAN CONCERNS AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF ACTING IN A MANNER CONTARARY TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S INTERESTS AND REQUESTED THAT HE CONVEY THIS TO THE PRESIDENT. I TOLD HIM QUESTION OF TIMING WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW AND THAT IN ANY EVENT WE WILL DO NOTHING WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH FAHMY AND SADAT. FAHMY WAS APPRECIATIVE AND SAID HE WOULD AT ONCE INFORM THE PRESIDENT IN ALEXANDRIA ABOUT THIS.

2. I AGAIN STATED TO FAHMY THAT, WHILE OUR INCLINATION IS TO ACCEPT A LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, OUR APPROACH PURPOSED ASCERTAINING EGYPTIAN
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VIEWS FOR CONSIDERATION BEFORE ANY STEP IS TAKEN.

SINCE STATE 130498 SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT
MATTER OF WHETHER OR NOT WE SEND US AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA
SHOULD DISCUSSED ONLY IF EGYPTIANS RAISED IT, I
DID NOT PREVIOUSLY DO SO. PURSUANT REFERENCE IN-
STRUCTIONS, HOWEVER, I MADE THE POINT TODAY
AND INFORMED HIM THE MATTER HAS BEEN INDEFINITELY
POSTPONED.

3. FAHMY ASKED IF GOE MIGHT ADVISE THE PRESS
OF OUR DISCUSSIONS ON US-LIBYAN RELATIONS. IT WOULD
BE A LESSON TO BOTH THE LIBYANS AND THE SOVIETS.
SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I TOLD HIM ANY SUCH DISCLOSURE
WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL TO US IN OUR ALREADY
STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THE LIBYANS AND ASKED HIM
NOT TO DO SO. HE AGREED.
EILTS

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